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Central Intelligence Group  
Far East/Pacific Branch, ORE

3 April 1947

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHIEF, INTELLIGENCE STAFF, ORE:

SUBJECT: Comment on IS draft of Memorandum for the Director entitled  
"Request that Publication of the C.I.G. Weekly Summary Be Suspended Pending Completion of the Situation Report Series."

1. This Branch believes that suspension of the Weekly is far too drastic a remedy for the problem confronting ORE, for two main reasons:

a. Value of Weekly: The need for this periodical is clearly stated in the first paragraph of the IS draft. It is believed that, except for recent issues, the ORE Weeklies have contributed materially toward meeting CIG's responsibility for proper current intelligence reporting. The OCD survey of late 1946, which includes favorable comment even from the outside agencies that produce their own weeklies, supports this belief. If the Weekly were suspended, and if only a few weekly-type articles were added to the Special Evaluation Series, a substantial body of valuable current intelligence would be sacrificed. More than just a few additions to the Special Evaluations would (1) defeat the purpose of the IS draft proposal, since this would mean simply a substitution in the medium of publication, and (2) destroy the high selectivity of the Special Evaluation Series.

b. Personnel capabilities: So far as this Branch is concerned, there has in fact been a diversion of effort into the production of Situation Reports. This has had less effect, it is believed, upon the quality than upon the quantity of intelligence prepared for the Weekly. In general, the analysts here are capable both of producing intelligence of requisite quality and in necessary quantity for the Weekly, and of preparing initial Situation Reports, provided only that some reasonable extension of Situation Report deadlines be granted. (An exception is the China Division, whose present lack of senior analysts would hold up Situation Report production even if the Weekly were suspended.) Moreover, the IS draft is held to be incorrect in claiming that production of Situation Reports is a "less exacting task."

2. It is believed that, rather than suggesting suspension of the Weekly to the Director, ORE should place before him the three alternatives of (a) continuing our attempts to run the Weekly and prepare Situation Reports against fixed deadlines--to the detriment of both publications; (b) moving back the Situation Report deadlines, or (c) suspending the Weekly; and in so doing, ORE should present the strongest possible case for continuing the Weekly as a top priority intelligence medium.

3. The IS draft makes one further point, to the effect that "suspension of the Weekly is the surest way to determine whether a real demand exists." It is entirely possible that the readers, noticing the discontinuation of the Weekly, will at the outset be satisfied with the CIG notification that this suspension is temporarily necessary to expedite

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the production of other intelligence; and immediate complaints (which would indicate a real demand) may therefore not be registered. Moreover, the suspension may last for several months, and a poll at the end of that time might find the erstwhile readers fairly well adjusted to the absence of a publication that they now undoubtedly believe to be of considerable value.

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Capt., USN  
Chief, FE/P Branch

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REMARKS:

*Re Weekly Summary*

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